

FINANCE & UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:00 PM

The Committee meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Nathan Brown. Those present included: Mayor Nathan Brown, Council Members John Dayton and Vaughn Ripley, Commission Members Tom Smith, Syree Williams and Brian Keller, and staff members Dave Dunn, Carrie Myers, John Gerstner, Jeremy Mose, Matt Campbell, Bruce Dell, and Rikki Bruchey.

WWTP Upgrades Financing Options

Presentations were made by Schneider Electric and Davenport. Topics discussed included plant upgrades for added capacity and higher regulations, and possible ways to fund such a large-scale project including bonds, grants, loans, ARPA funding, etc... Mayor Brown expressed that \$15 million is a lot of money to encumber when there are so many necessary projects ahead of the City.

ARPA Project Update

Mayor Brown stated staff is still assessing all needs. He anticipates having a list of updated projects for approval after the first of the year.

ServLine Leak Options

Mayor Brown and Mr. Dunn discussed the benefit of using this company; they are the only company that partners with MML and the MD Rural Water Association, and are the only company that offers both a leak insurance policy and a service line program. The City can decide to pay this for homeowners up front, rather than including the cost on utility bills, however, people cannot opt out of the program under that option.

Mayor Brown felt this service should be added to utility bills, not paid by the City. Mr. Ripley, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Williams expressed similar opinions. Mr. Dayton was concerned that the overall program would be more expensive if it were added to utility bills, rather than the City purchasing for everyone and maybe negotiating a better price for the City as a whole. Mr. Dayton asked for staff to follow up with ServLine to see what the opt-out rate is per year.

The recommendation of the Commission was to add this service to utility bills.

Budget Amendment – Paving

Ms. Bruchey discussed this budget amendment which reallocates \$340,000 of FY2021 paving not spend due to COVID into the FY2022 budget. The Commission recommended approval.

Bond Proceeds FYI

Ms. Bruchey stated approximately \$421,000 will remain unencumbered of the bond money. Mayor Brown stated one option for spending this money was to replace sidewalks on West B Street. During this large-scale water line replacement project, it was noted the poor condition of sidewalks, and the Mayor stated it didn't make sense to fix some small sections of sidewalk and repave the entire street, and leave very poor sidewalks remaining.

The recommendation of the Commission was to approve this expenditure.

FY22 & FY23 HUR Estimates FYI

Brunswick Crossing Home Pipeline FYI

Mr. Dunn stated these items were just FYI at this point.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.